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Peace.

Peace is the one word now constantly heard in reference to South Africa. Every day there are rumors of it. It is a very attractive word all at once. Nobody now talks of the "piping times of peace," or of the moral degeneracy and stagnation produced by peace. It is the supreme thing, after which all hearts long.

It is said that when the first substantial rumor of peace struck London some weeks ago it produced very great excitement in the city and throughout the country. More recently, as the rumors have become thicker and more reliable, the war office has been surrounded with a crowd of anxious people eagerly watching for the announcement of the end of the war, and lingering about even after the doors were closed for the night. All England has grown sick and tired of the conflict. The money cost has been great, but the other costs have been much larger. There is little doubt that the nation would be willing to pay another billion dollars to-day, or the cost of the war over again, if it could only cancel the deaths, the sorrow and shame, the loss of prestige entailed.

War always seems a very different thing after it has run its bloody and ruinous course from what it appeared when the fever first stirred the country's blood and the troops marched out in gay uniforms

and gayer hearts, with high conceit and contempt for the enemy. Seen in its cruel and vile reality, it becomes intolerably repulsive. Its glory and honor depart, except for those whom it has not smitten in their families or otherwise. Then the praises of peace are upon all lips. Peace jubilees are held. Men come to their senses, and see things as they are.

When our Civil War closed Boston gave a whole week to the celebration of peace. At the end of the war of 1812 the people of New York and other seaboard cities went wild with pleasure when the ship from the other side sailed into the harbor, and men shouted the word "peace" ashore.

Why should not the peace celebrations be held beforehand, when its blessings are everywhere upon the land? Men know in their heart of hearts that peace is the great need, the supreme condition of the common weal and the common happiness. Why should they ever be tempted to let it be broken, to plunge into the furies and the desolations of war? War is hell; war is savagery; war is brutalism; war is death and agony; war is hatred and malevolence; war is ruin and desolation and shame. Peace is heaven; it is love; it is life; it is happy homes; it is trust, and friendship, and coöperation, and prosperity, and progress, and civilization.

Alas! that men have so little imagination, and seem incapable of learning except from the hardest and bitterest experiences!

Just as we go to press, the great and blessed news comes that peace terms have been signed and the South African war ended.

War and Natural Calamities.

The attempt has often been made to justify war by comparing it with the great natural calamities, like that which has just overwhelmed the islands of Martinique and St. Vincent. This attempt is still sometimes made, though not so frequently and light-heartedly as once was the case. If God uses for accomplishing his purposes, or permits to come to pass, these appalling catastrophes, which inflict such enormous destruction and suffering, so ran the reasoning, men and nations are justified in employing war with all its cruelties, horrors and woes, as an instrument for the attainment of ends which they set for themselves.

But the resemblance between the two classes of events is wanting in all those elements which would